GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:174
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
CONVERSION OF BARREN LAND INTO CULTIVABLE LAND
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to convert entire barren and waste land into cultivable land in the country;

(b) if so, the total targetted land to be converted into cultivable land during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the total amount estimated to be required for the implementation of the scheme in its entirety; and

(d) the total allocation made for the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 174 DUE FOR REPLY ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2004.

(a): Wasteland is described as `degraded land which can be brought under vegetative cover with reasonable effort, and which is currently under-utilized or land which is deteriorating for lack of appropriate water and soil management`. Barren land is one of the categories of the wastelands, which cannot be brought under cultivation economically.

As per `Wastelands Atlas` published by Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, an area of 63.852 million ha. is wasteland. Government of India is implementing various schemes/ programmes for development of degraded lands including wastelands, namely:

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas(NWDPRA)

2. Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River(RVP & FPR),

3. Reclamation of Alkali Soil(RAS),

4. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas(WDPSCA)

5. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
6. Desert Development Programmes(DDP)

7 Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP),

8. Reclamation of Waterlogged Areas (RWLA),

9. Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Schemes(IAEPS),
10. National Project on Development & Use of Bio-fertilizer(NPD&UB),
11. National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF).

(b)&(c): The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for Tenth Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission has suggested a perspective plan for development of 88.5 million ha. of degraded land in

20 years with an estimated cost of Rs.72750.00 crore. Out of this an area of 15.00 million ha. of degraded land, including wasteland has been suggested for development during Tenth Five Year Plan with an estimated cost of Rs.9000.00 crore.

(d): An amount of Rs. 6480.00 crore has been allocated for development of 21.43 million ha. of degraded land including wasteland through various watershed development schemes/programmes during Tenth Five Year Plan.